

On July 2, 2004, Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, paid homage to Mr. Reagan at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, Korea. I submit the text of Mr. Reed's address to be entered into the RECORD.

STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR JOSEPH VERNER REED AT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR PAN PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL STUDIES OF KYUNG HEE UNIVERSITY, SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

An event in the United States eclipsed matters in the media recently, and that was the passing of President Ronald Reagan.

I was privileged to have been appointed to three posts by President Reagan. First as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco, then as Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations as Ambassador to the Economic and Social Council and lastly as the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs of the United Nations.

Several years ago I was privileged to accept on behalf of President Reagan, here at Kyung Hee University, the Great World Peace Award. It was an honor and a privilege.

Ronald Wilson Reagan—father, husband, actor and dedicated public servant—restored the pride, optimism and strength of the United States and earned deep respect and affection of his fellow citizens. When he passed away, we witnessed an outpouring of solemnity, sorrow and reflection in our country. In the view of many people, President Reagan remains the most significant United States President since Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He was a man who changed the course of American politics, culture and world history. He was right on the most important questions of his era: the role of government and the defeat of the Soviet Union. The structure of the American economy was altered profoundly by his term. Top tax rates have never returned to their previously punitive levels. America's current standing in world affairs is also a direct result of President Reagan's calling the Soviet Union's bluff in the 1980s and restoring US military power and self-confidence. This was not evident at the time. Everything President Reagan did was challenged. He was a polarizing figure—more disdained in Europe than President George W. Bush is today. For at least half his presidency he was unpopular at home as well, as most effective Presidents are.

With his Californian optimism, President Reagan transformed conservatism into a progressive force, into a political philosophy that took risks and changed things. President Reagan took conservatism into a reformist, unapologetic governing philosophy. That achievement endures in the United States.

I feel blessed to have been appointed to posts in public service by President Reagan. He inspired; he amused; he gave conviction a sunny disposition. Because of him, millions live in freedom where they once labored under tyranny. Because of Ronald Wilson Reagan, America was recharged and freedom reborn. In life it is rare to live under a political leader who evokes love as well as respect.

President Reagan's extraordinary political gifts carried him through—his talents as a communicator, his intuitive understanding of the average American, his unfailing geniality even after being hit by an assassin's bullet, his ability to build and sustain friendships across partisan lines. Those gifts—and his conviction that words counted for far more in politics than mere deeds—enabled him to convince large majorities that as long

as he was in charge, it would remain "Morning in America". I believe the cool eye of history will place Ronald Reagan in the list of the great Presidents.

President Reagan believed that America was not just a place in the world, but the hope of the world. He came to office with great hopes for America. He was optimistic that a strong America could advance peace, and he acted to build the strength that this mission required. He was optimistic that liberty would thrive wherever it was planted, and he acted to defend liberty wherever it was threatened. And Ronald Reagan believed in the power of truth in the conduct of world affairs. When he saw evil camped across the horizon, he called that evil by its name. Who can ever forget President Reagan in Berlin calling "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall"?

Ronald Wilson Reagan belongs to the ages; a great American story has closed.

A TRIBUTE TO THE USS "RONALD REAGAN" ON ARRIVING AT ITS NEW HOME PORT OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the USS *Ronald Reagan* and its crew on their arrival this week at their new home port of San Diego, California.

I am pleased that one of the President Reagan's many legacies is the Navy's newest nuclear carrier, the USS *Ronald Reagan*. The ship recently set sail from Norfolk for its rightful home in San Diego. Throughout his political career, President Reagan always concluded his campaign in San Diego. He called it his "Lucky City." It is only fitting that our shining city on the hill, San Diego, will be home to the USS *Ronald Reagan*.

This ship is perhaps the most fitting tribute to Ronald Reagan's legacy of strength and security, to the imprint he had on our past, and the promise that we hold for the future. The ship's motto, "Peace Through Strength," was borrowed from one of President Reagan's radio addresses and embodies the essence of his vision of national security.

The USS *Ronald Reagan* is the most advanced aircraft carrier in the world. It has the newest hull design, two nuclear reactors, a length of 1,092 feet, a top speed over 30 knots, over 6,000 highly-trained service members, and more than 80 of the world's top aircraft. Finally, its 4.5 acres of flight deck are American territory that can be used to project our presence anywhere in the world.

A United States ship is a powerful symbol and the USS *Ronald Reagan* stands to be the most powerful of all. It will be a welcome sight to many around the world who see it as an example of America's strength and protection of freedom. It will also bring caution to people and nations who would deny that freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you urge our colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding service of the USS *Ronald Reagan* and its crew and wish them the best in all their future endeavors. San Diego anxiously awaits the arrival of the USS *Ronald Reagan* and our opportunity to welcome it home to its "Lucky City."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JAMIE HASSLER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of Jamie Hassler of Grand Junction, Colorado. After a courageous battle with cancer, Jamie passed away at the young age of fourteen. I personally knew Jamie, and I was enthralled with his contagious optimism and outgoing demeanor. As his family and friends mourn his passing, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Jamie's amazing life before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Jamie was born in 1989 in San Jose, California, and soon thereafter, his family moved to Grand Junction where he spent most of his life. Diagnosed with cancer at an early age, Jamie had to overcome many obstacles in his young life. However, he eagerly tackled those challenges head on, and was never discouraged. Jamie had a great love for the outdoors, and jumped at any opportunity to go camping or fishing. He took comfort in listening to music. One of his dreams was to fly in a helicopter, and with the help of the Make-a-Wish Foundation, that dream became a reality.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to the memory of Jamie Hassler before this body of Congress and this nation. His passion for life serves as an inspiration to us all, and I am comforted in knowing his memory will live on in the hearts and minds of the Grand Junction community. I wish to offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

A TRIBUTE HONORING ROGER DURBIN, PETER DURBIN, AND MELISSA GROWDEN OF BLISSFIELD, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on May 29, 2004, members of the Greatest Generation gathered for the unveiling of the World War II Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C. It is right that we, as Americans, commemorate the men and women who selflessly gave their lives on foreign shores to halt the march of tyranny during the darkest days of World War II.

Roger Durbin was a young man and father when he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942. After the war, the former tank mechanic went on to work, raised a family, and lived a normal life, but he never forgot what he had seen and experienced in the War. At the Jerusalem Township Fish Fry in 1986, Roger Durbin approached Congresswoman Nancy Kaptur about a memorial to commemorate the sacrifices made by the Greatest Generation. That conversation would be the beginning of a 17-year quest for Roger Durbin, which culminated on May 30, 2004 with the dedication of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC.